

November 18, 2005

**Congress  
of the  
United States**  
House of Representatives

**DEBORAH PRYCE**  
**OHIO**  
15th DISTRICT



The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable James Nicholson  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

I am writing to urge the immediate implementation of Chapter 1607 of the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP). It is my understanding that this new program requires extensive coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It is also my understanding that several steps still require completion prior to the disbursement of payments and that these delays may lead to a backlog in payments.

With the 2005 fall semester nearing completion and payments for spring semester rapidly approaching, these delays inevitably create extremely difficult circumstances for veterans in pursuit of a college education. It is imperative that eligible veterans receive their education disbursements as promised.

Without any definite timeline for when checks will be in the mail, I find it difficult to promise those eligible for this benefit that they will receive payment by the end of this school year. We have a commitment to the men and women who have served our great nation with honor and distinction. These delays not only endanger our credibility with our veterans, but they hurt our recruitment process as well.

I look forward to a swift resolution of this situation.

Very truly yours,

  
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Member of Congress



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